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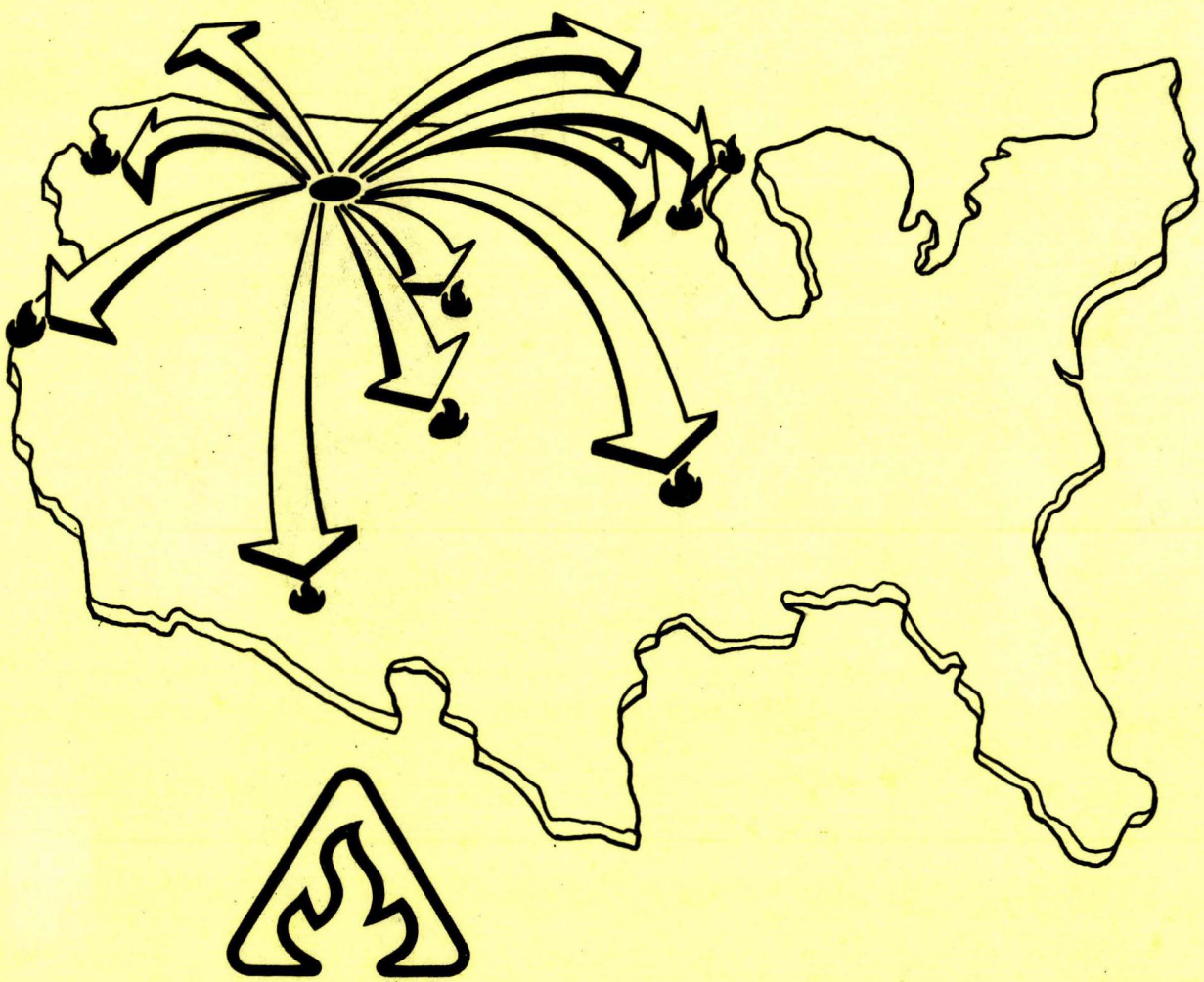
1976
ANNUAL
REGIONAL FIRE REPORT



U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service / Northern Region

This cover is intended to depict the role that Region 1 played in sharing resources with the rest of the world of fire in 1976.

5180
Missoula, Montana
January 1977

REGION 1

ANNUAL REGIONAL FIRE REPORT

C.Y. 1976

EDWARD G. HEILMAN
Director
Fire and Aviation Management

NARRATIVE SECTION

USDA FOREST SERVICE, REGION 1 1976 ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

* *

IN MEMORIAM

On January 4, 1977, Ernest R. DeSilvia died in a Missoula, Montana, hospital following heart surgery. DeSilvia was Chief of Fire Control in the Northern Region from 1957 until his retirement in 1968. He had a long and distinguished Forest Service career, spanning 36 years and most parts of the United States. He is survived by his father, widow, a son, and a daughter.

* *

The 1976 fire season was notable in Region 1 for the application of the Total Mobility Concept on a grand scale. Our fire forces covered practically every area in the nation with major support given in Michigan and Minnesota. The Region 1 fire season was not the easiest, but it was a long ways from the toughest fire season that has ever occurred in this area.

While our forces were fighting fires in other areas, we did at one time have to request outside assistance for both smokejumpers and air tankers to meet local needs. We are completely committed to the Total Mobility Concept and are proud of the movement of equipment and personnel which we were able to make available to other units. We were the beneficiaries of this concept in 1973.

FIRE WEATHER SEASON SUMMARY

The 1976 fire season began with a near normal snow pack in western Montana and northern Idaho mountains. Precipitation during May and June, normally the wet period, was below normal. Temperatures were a little cooler than normal and the precipitation that was received was well distributed through the period. This precluded any early season buildup.

July and August were characterized by near or slightly above normal rainfall with temperatures near or a little below normal. The rainfall was again evenly distributed through both months and dry lightning activity was minimal.

The period September through November was dry and warm. A protective ridge of high pressure became entrenched over the Pacific Northwest in early September and persisted with only minor breaks through late November (see Fuels Management section following).

FIRE MANAGEMENT COOPERATION

Region 1 again furnished one line boss for the Montana State Fire Team. Because of low activity, this team was not activated this year. The Deerlodge's John Hautzinger did work with the group.

The Governor of North Dakota requested that Region 1 and the Custer Forest support them on a fire on intermingled private and national grassland protection in western North Dakota. The Region furnished two crews and a fire boss to advise the North Dakota Rural Fire Departments on action needed on the 7,000-acre Davis Fire. This was the first call the Region had had from North Dakota for fire support. We were happy to be able to meet North Dakota's needs with professional fire expertise. We are looking forward to helping where needed in the North Dakota fire program.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

The Region made great strides this year in implementing the physical fitness testing program for temporary employee fire goers; in fact, in conjunction with Personnel Management, a policy was issued where temporary fire goers had to pass the Physical Fitness Test prior to being hired.

The Montana Indian Firefighters participated in the Physical Fitness Program, and, despite some earlier concern to the contrary, met the Physical Fitness Standards. The biggest weakness in the Region concerned the number of Region 1 fire overhead that either did not take the test or qualify at the needed level. We hope that this situation will correct itself in the future.

MONTANA INDIAN FIREFIGHTERS

Montana Indian Firefighters got off to a good start with a successful crew boss training session in Billings, Montana, in April in cooperation with the BLM and BIA. Because of the low volume of fire business in the Region, only a few requests were made for Montana Indian Firefighters for Region 1. They did get some activity, however, with the Montana BLM and BIA.

JOB CORPS FIREFIGHTERS

The Anaconda and Trapper Creek Job Corps Center again trained Corpsmen as line and camp crews. Their use, however, was very limited because of the light fire season.

INTERREGIONAL CREWS

The eight R-1 Interregional Crews worked 44 percent of their time on fire suppression during the 1976 fire season. This compares with 28 percent of their time on fire in 1975 and 76 percent in 1973. The IR Crews were available for a longer period of time this year because we specified at hiring time that those hired had to be available until September 15. While this program was not 100 percent successful in 1976, it did make the crews available for a much longer period. Several of these crews were combined and used late into October in the Lake States. We feel this adjustment in the hiring procedure has made a very definite improvement in the crews. It also makes them available later in the year when they are really needed in Region 1 and elsewhere.

AIR OPERATIONS

The change in the large transport aircraft contract this year from the Electra which was under contract in previous years to two Convair 580's was very successful. BIFC contracted for the two Convairs with Mountain West of Tucson, Arizona. This change was very successful because the Convairs have a lot more versatility and can use airports that we have not been able to use with the Electras. We are looking forward to the 1977 season when the Convairs hopefully will be more versatile for use in either cargo or passenger configuration.

Region 1 air tankers flew 694 hours of which 96 hours were on Region 1 fires. One of our contract tankers spent the whole fire season out of Region.

The Regional Smokejumper Organization and the BIFC Unit of the BLM evaluated the Bell 212 helicopter for smokejumper use. Evaluation was completed this year and the 212 has been accepted as a smokejumper jump ship.

FIRE MANAGEMENT UNITS (Approved by Chief as Exceptions to the Servicewide 10 AM Control Policy)

The Bitterroot National Forest White Cap Area experienced three lightning fires. One was in a shrub fire and burned itself out the first night; one was in the sub-alpine zone and burned for 4 days before going out; and the third was in the sub-alpine zone and went out soon after discovery. All were Class A fires.

The Nezperce National Forest's Bear Creek Unit did not have any fire starts for the second year in a row.

REGIONAL TANKERS

For the first time, the Region set up a 1,000-gallon tanker at Stevensville Ranger Station (Bitterroot National Forest) for Regional use. The purpose of the tanker was to provide a needed tanker source in the Region with the mobility to move to the area of need. The crew was given an intensive training in the latest pumper operation technique. This unit worked on one fire on the Bitterroot Forest before being flown in a Minnesota Air National Guard C-130 to Minnesota where it spent the rest of the fire season.

During 1976, Region 1 purchased fifty-five 200- and 300-gallon slip-on tanker units and six 1,000-gallon units. We also standardized Regional designs of 200-, 300-, 600-, and 1,000-gallon sizes.

RETARDANT

For the first time liquid concentrate retardant was used from a base in Region 1. The Coeur d'Alene base was converted to liquid concentrate. All of the rest of the bases are still using Phos-Chek.

Also this year, for the first time, the Region conducted a coordinated Retardant-Mixmaster training session. The mixmasters and their assistants from all the bases were present along with representatives of the retardant manufacturers. This session was set up in an effort to standardize the mixing procedure and to explain the retardant standards expected.

REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Regional emphasis in training at present is directed to "the man in the smoke." The Regional Training Cadre, which is composed of some of the Aerial Fire Depot Personnel, made a major contribution to the national training effort by participating in Service, Plans, Basic and Intermediate Air Operations, and Air Service Officer Training package preparation.

The Regional Training Cadre conducted 16 courses which involved 507 participants in fire behavior, sector boss, crew boss, basic air operations, helicopter manager, and Forest air officer. The Cadre also assisted in Guard School Training and conducted specialized individualized helitack and helicopter management courses for the Forests. They are also developing the framework for courses for the Region so that the Forest firemen can put on a high quality course on their units.

The Regional Training Cadre was organized in 1974 from the Missoula Smokejumper Unit by extending tours of duty of individuals selected for training aptitude.

FUELS MANAGEMENT

Highlights of the 1976 season in fuels management were focused on prescribed burning of activity slash, mostly logging slash. The Region accomplished 117 percent of the planned fall burning program. A total of 49,808 acres were treated by prescribed fire. Due to the slow fire season, crews were kept busy in fuel management work particularly on roadside cleanup and treatment of thinning slash.

A correspondence reading course in fuel management was initiated during 1976 and completed by 141 trainees.

The Region was given the opportunity to select the first NFS person to participate in the Fuel Inventory and Appraisal Research Project at Fort Collins, Colorado. Gary Meyer of the Flathead National Forest was selected for the 2-year assignment with the intent that at the end of that time he will return as a Fuels Specialist in Region 1.

The Region participated with Chief's representatives in preparing the Action Plan for the Brush Disposal Review, following field visits in late 1975. Action items are already under way.

RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES

As last year, the only restriction invoked (36 CFR 261.2 E, H) during the fire season was along the Salmon River in the Nezperce National Forest. A prescheduled restriction (July 1 through September 15) was coordinated with the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (Pacific Northwest Region), the Payette National Forest (Intermountain Region), and State of Idaho.

TRESPASS SETTLEMENTS

A total of $36,186.43 was collected during 1976 in settlement of 41 civil fire cases. One criminal fire conviction was obtained.

FFF EXPENDITURES

FFF expenditures from June 1 to December 31, 1976, totaled $8,857,016; $2,345,657 was spent in other Regions or other agencies:

Region 2	$ 150,257
Region 3	322,847
Region 4	189,162
Region 5	156,878
Region 6	165,226
Region 8	10,810
Region 9	194,998
All Other	1,155,479
	$2,345,657

FIRE OCCURRENCE 1976 AND 1971-1975 BASE PERIOD AVERAGE

	Class[1/]							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
				Total All Fires				
1976	669	115	30	3	0	0	1	818
Average	996	214	36	4	5	2	0	1,227
				Lightning Fires				
1976	469	55	11	1	0	0	0	536
Average	694	123	15	1	1	1	0	835
				Man-Caused Fires				
1976	200	60	19	2	0	0	1	282
Average	272	91	21	3	4	1	0	392

1/ Class A - .25 acre or less
Class B - .26 to 9 acres
Class C - 10 to 99 acres
Class D - 100 to 299 acres
Class E - 300 to 999 acres
Class F - 1,000 to 4,999 acres
Class G - 5,000 or more acres

1976 ACRES BURNED INSIDE PROTECTION BOUNDARY

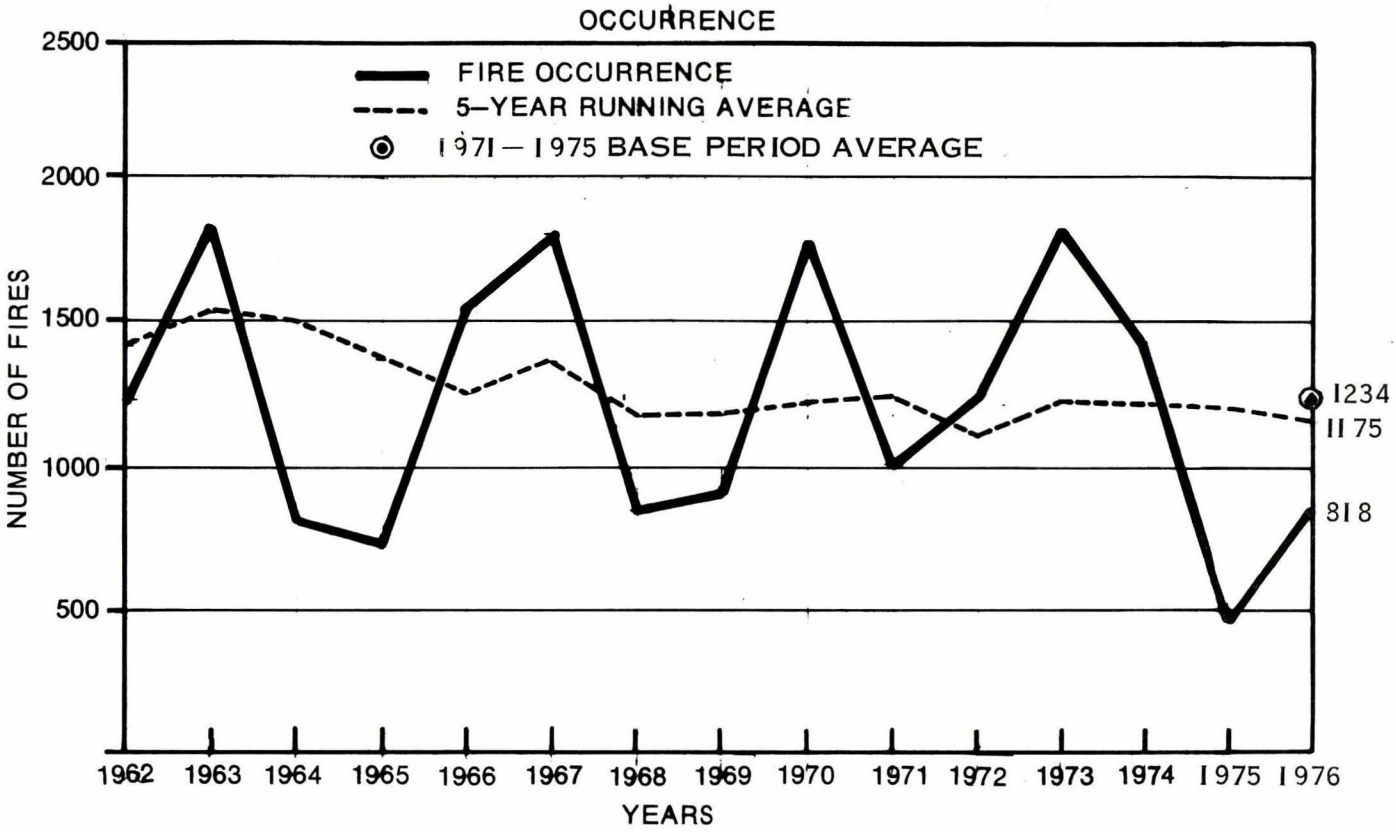
COMPARED WITH 1971-1975 BASE PERIOD AVERAGE

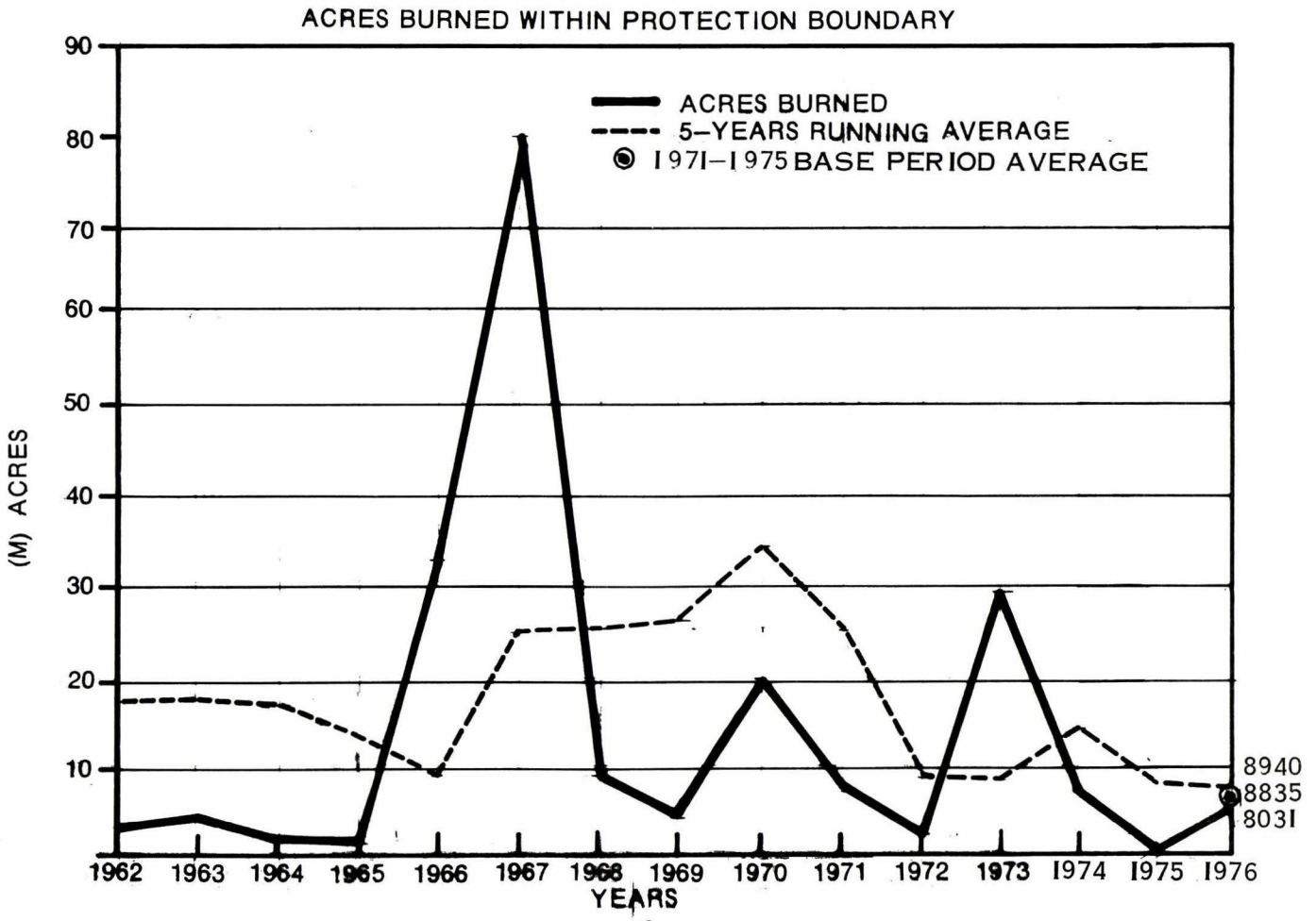
Lightning-Caused				Man-Caused				Total Burned			
1976		1971-75 Base Average		1976		1971-75 Base Average		1976		1971-75 Base Average	
N.F.	Other	N.F.	Other	N.F.	Other	N.F.	Other	N.F.	Other	N.F.	Other
531	36	3,057	93	1,836	5,628	4,605	1,566	2,526	5,505	7,663	1,659

GRAND TOTAL ACRES BURNED N.F. AND OTHER INSIDE

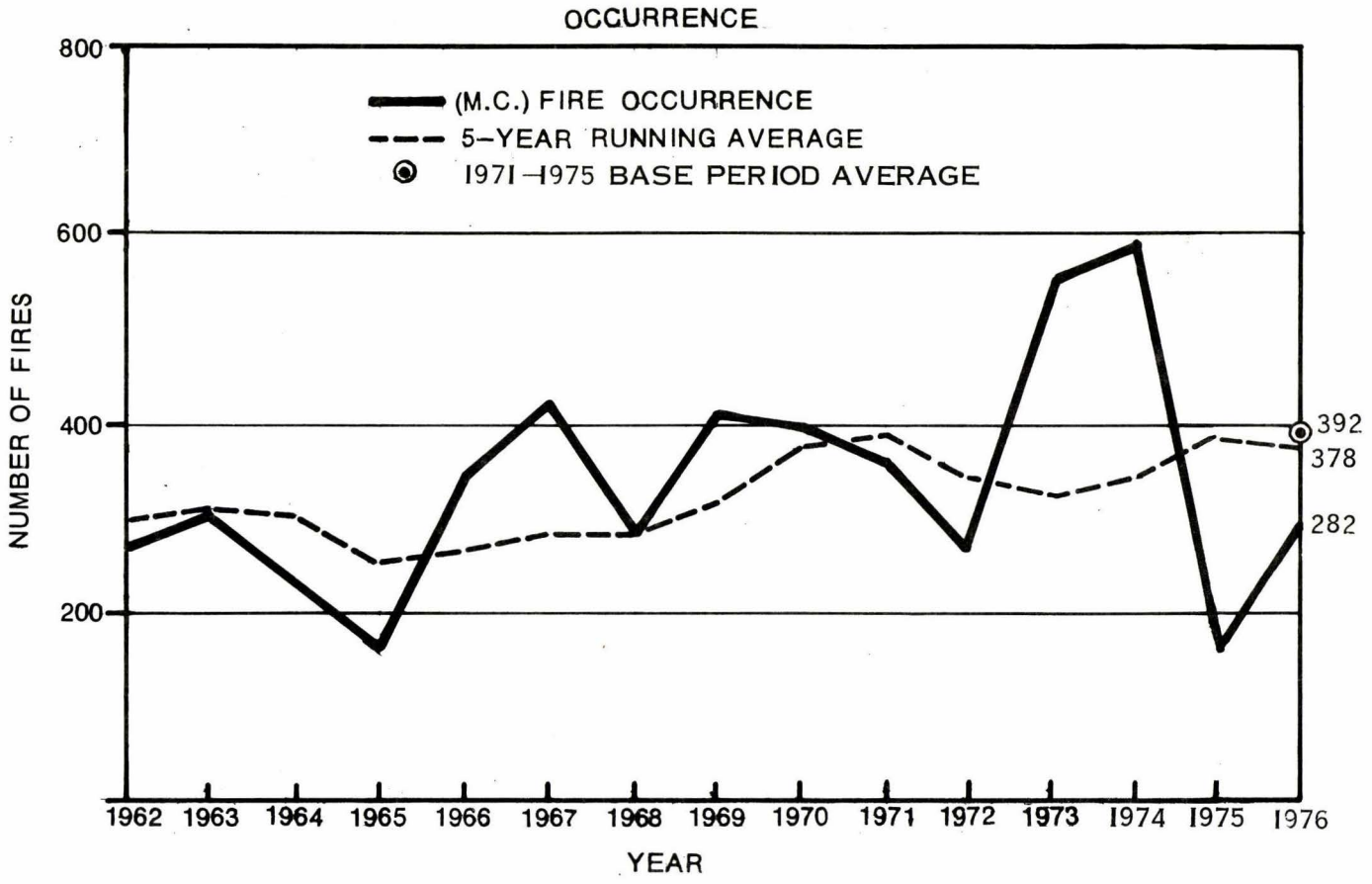
1976 Season			1971-1975 Base Period Average		
Lightning-Caused	Man-Caused	Grand Total	Lightning-Caused	Man-Caused	Grand Total
567	7,464	8,031	3,150	6,172	9,322

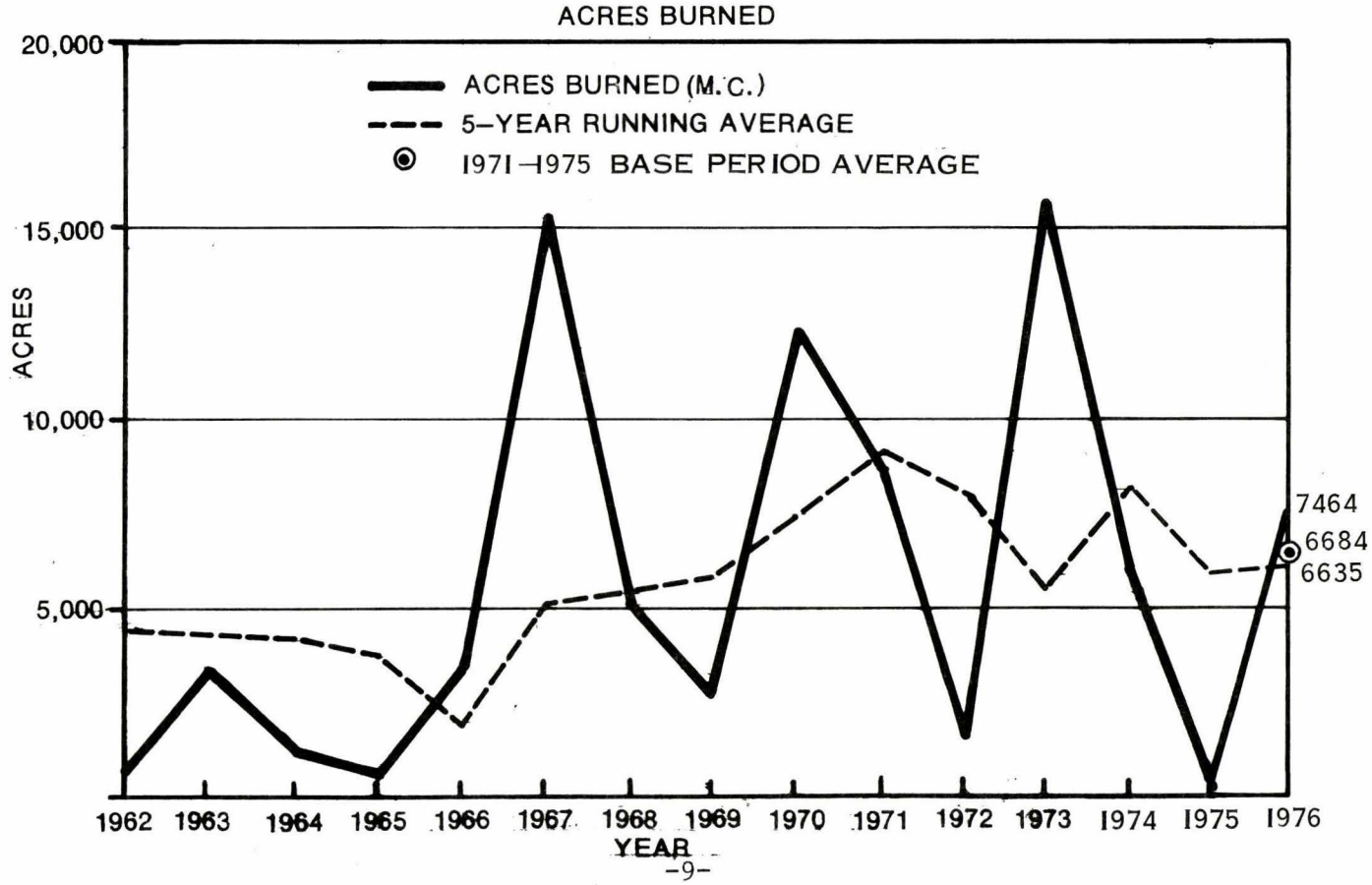
REGION ONE FIRES ALL CAUSES



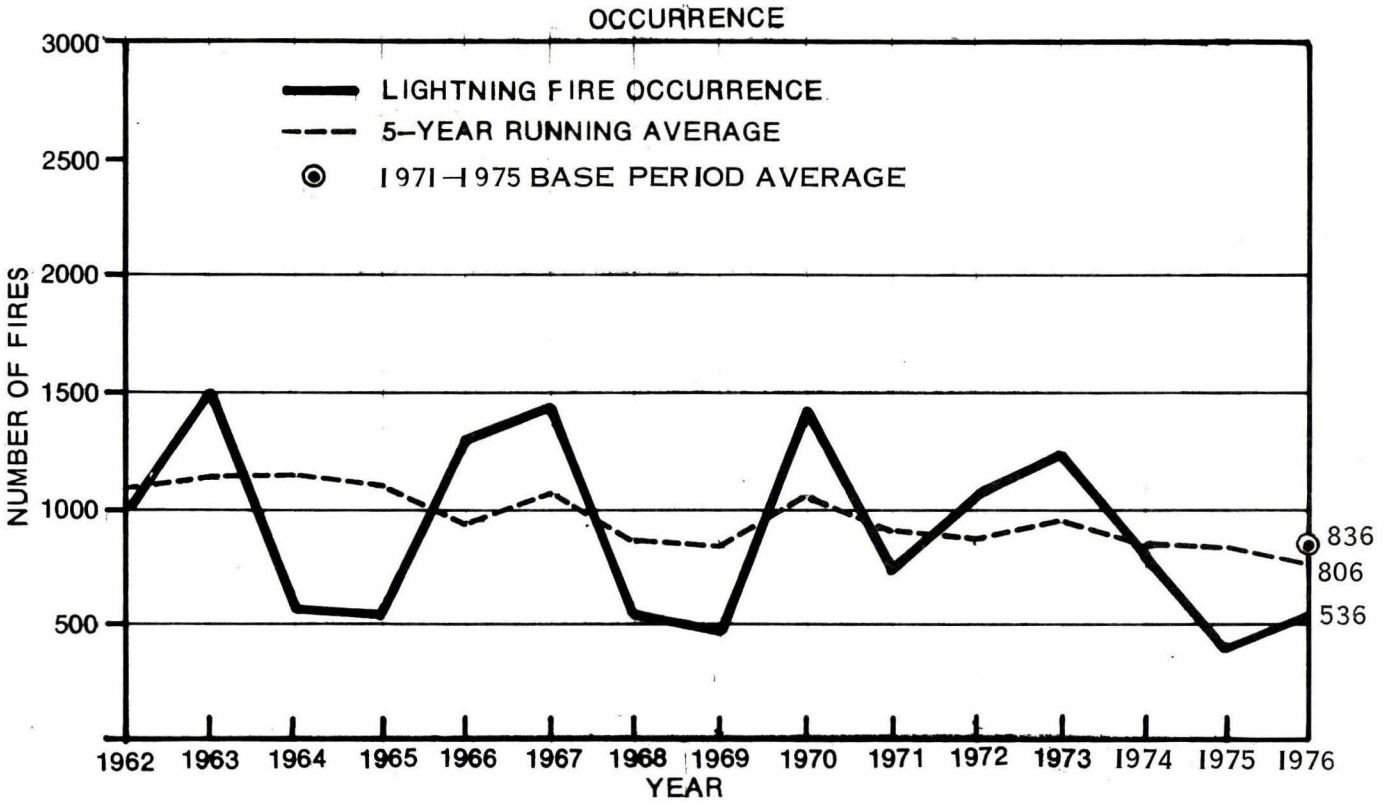


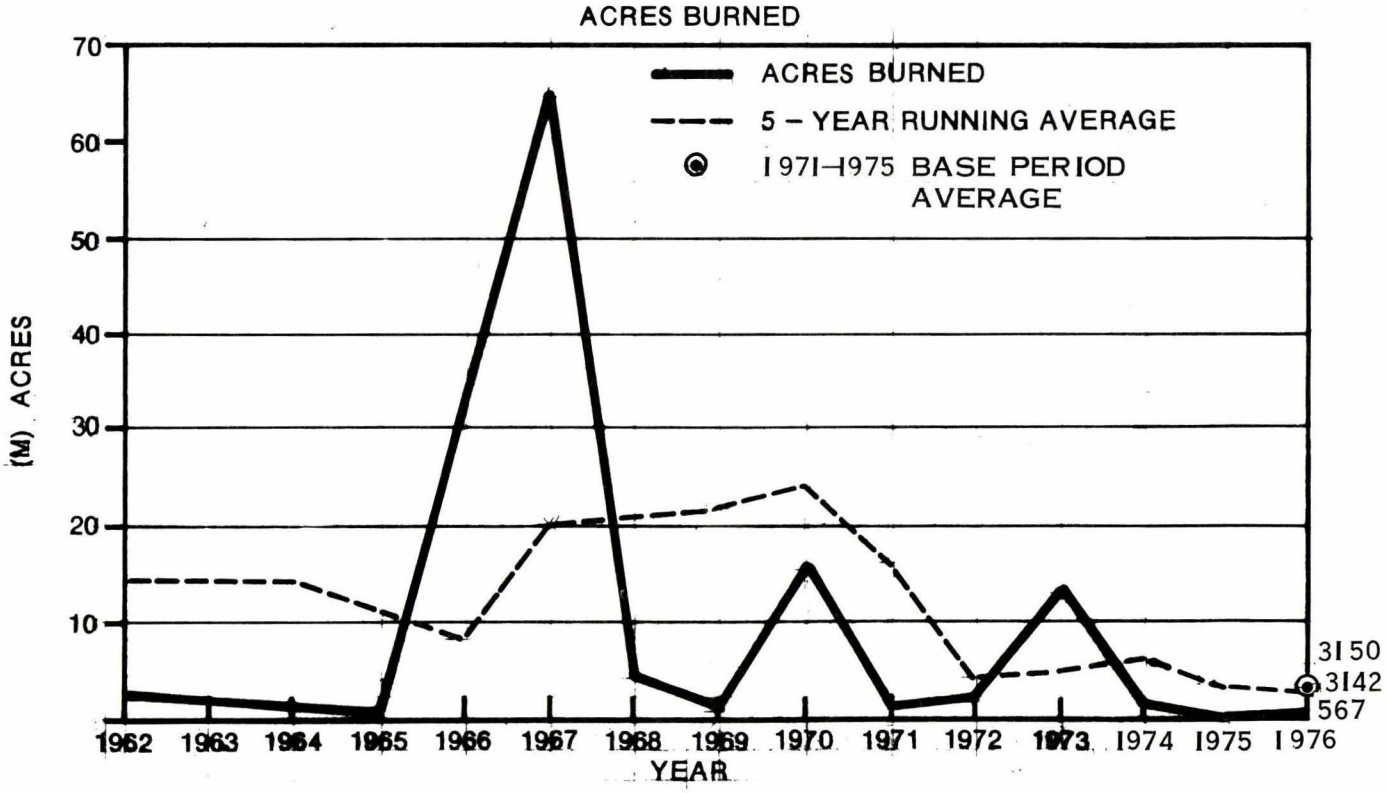
REGION ONE MAN CAUSED FIRES



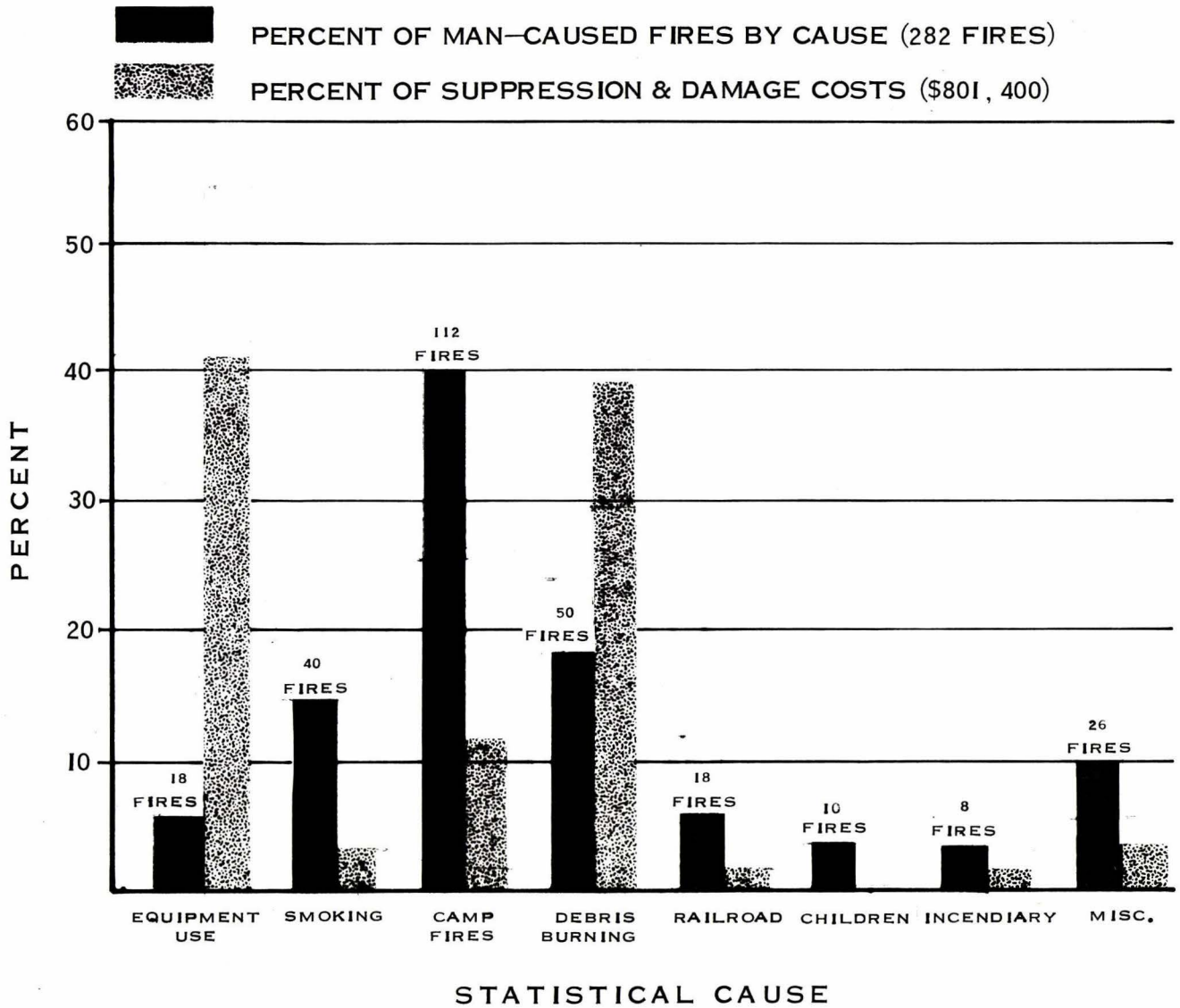


REGION ONE LIGHTNING FIRES

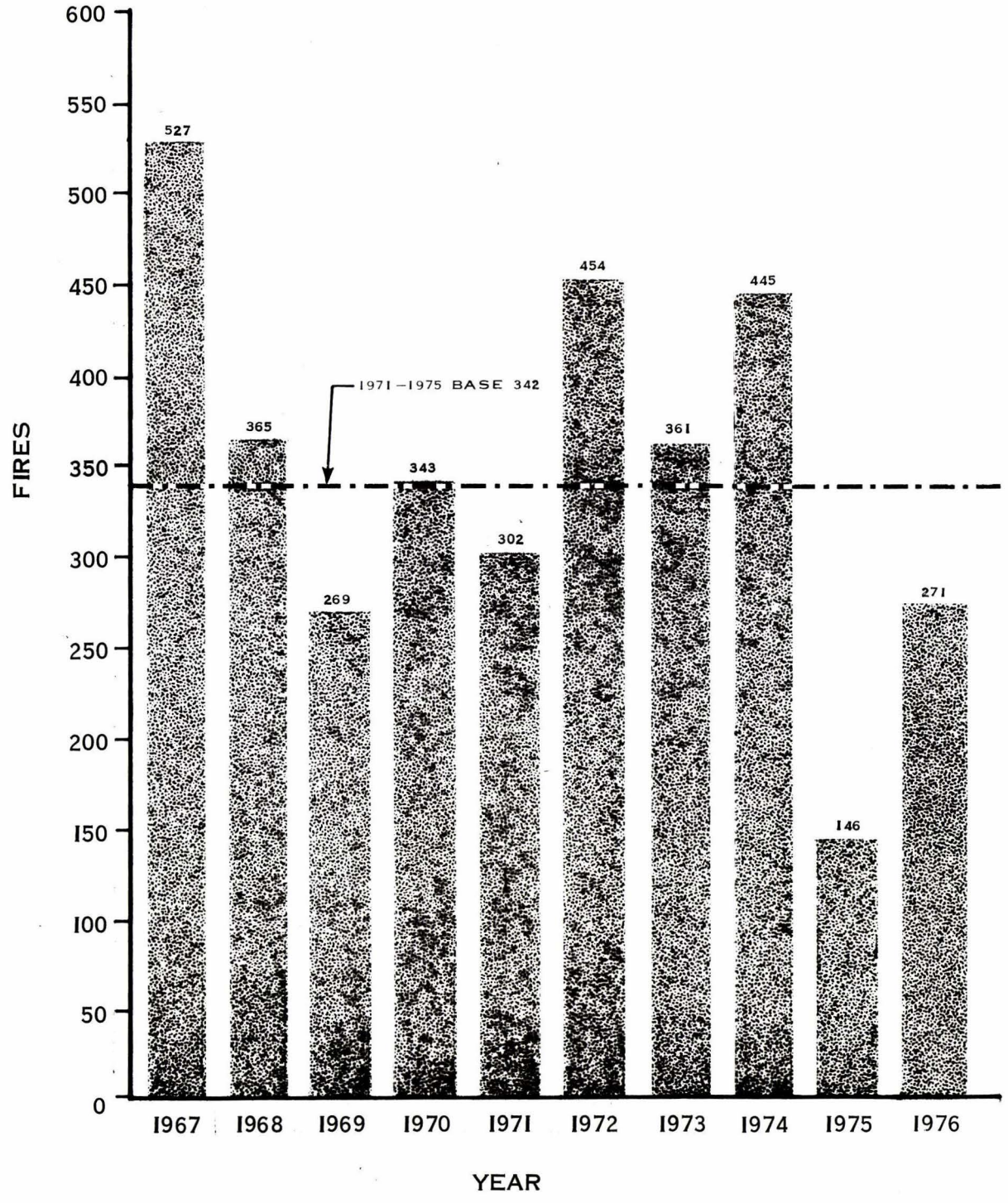




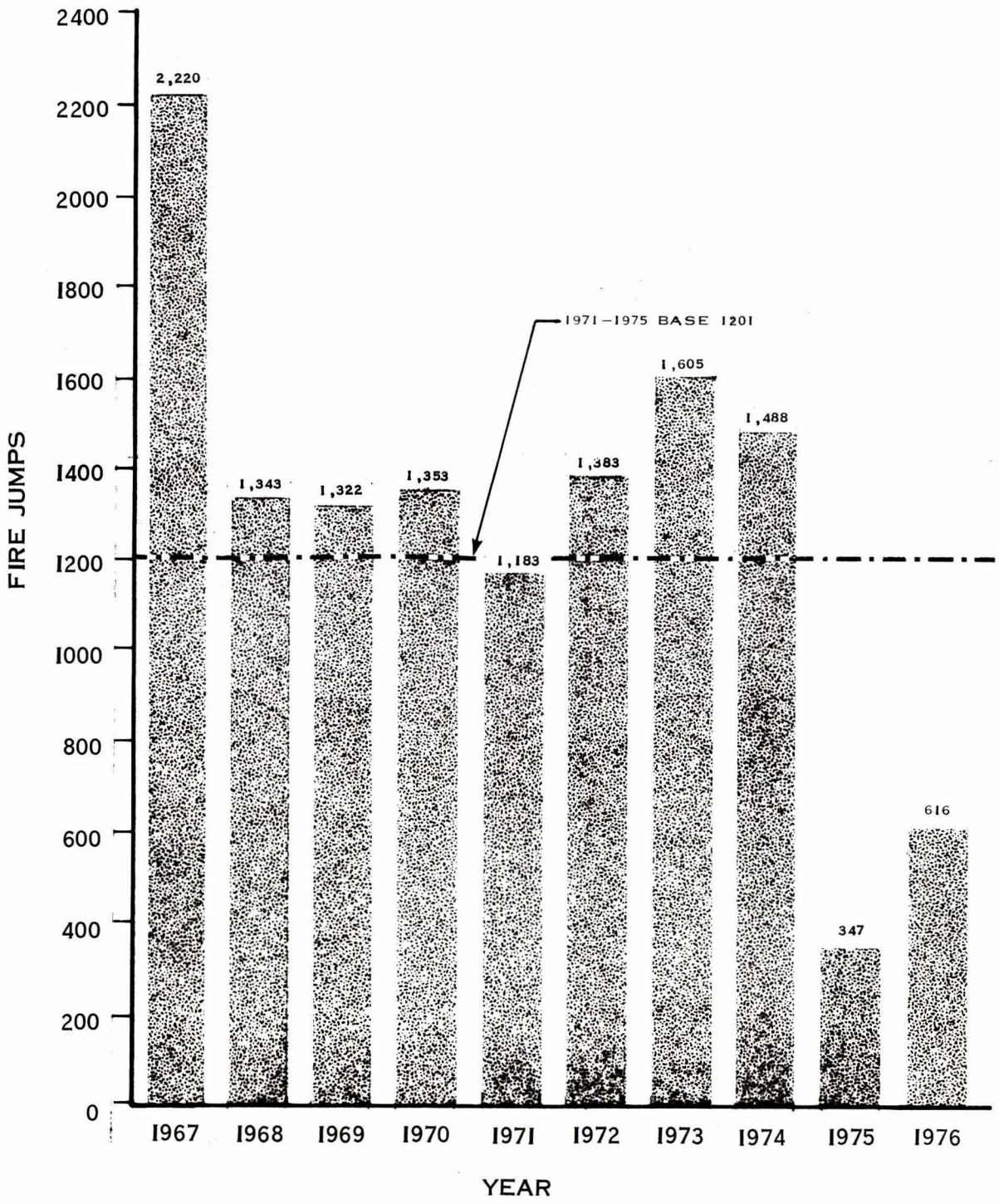
1976 MAN CAUSED FIRES

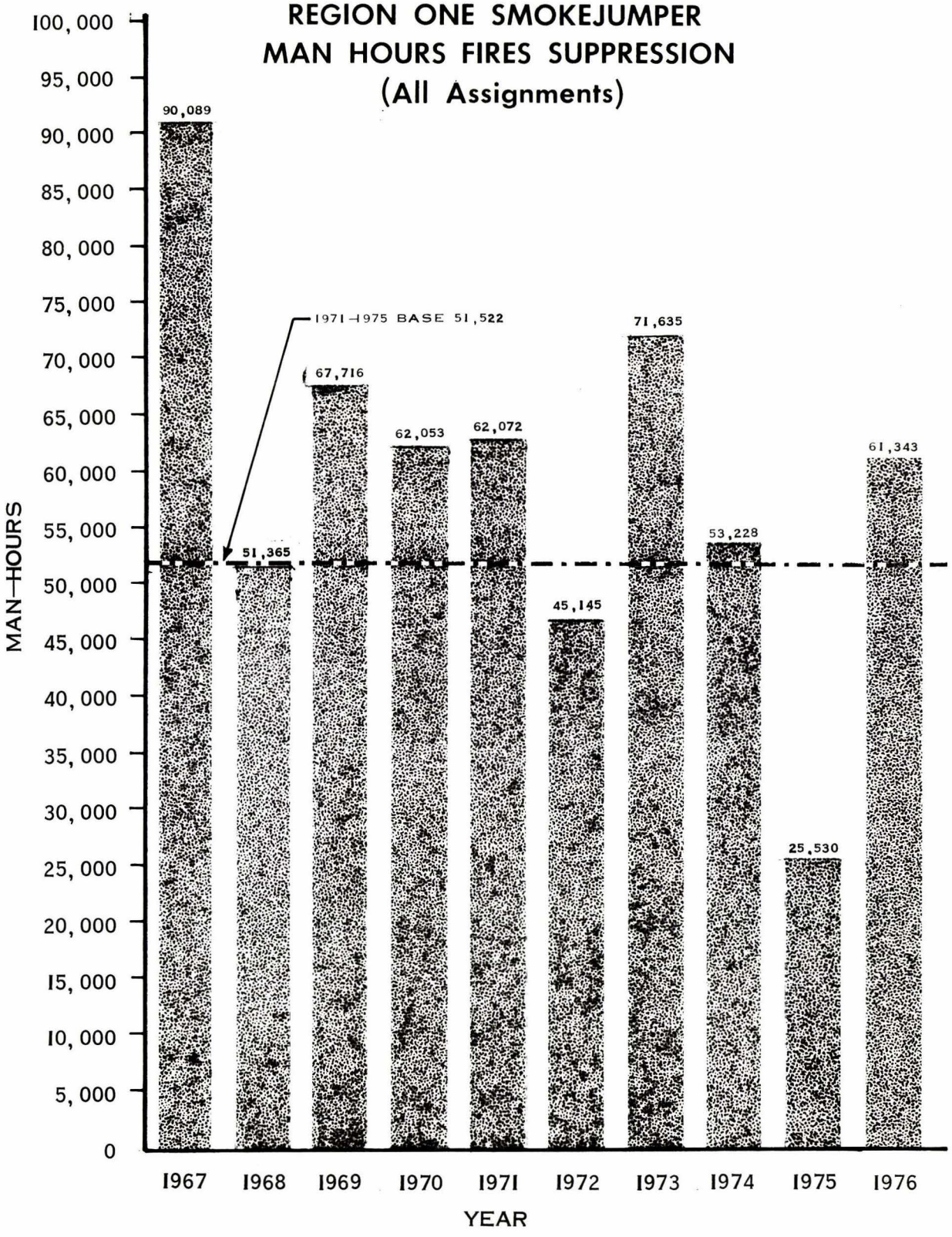


REGION ONE SMOKEJUMPER FIRES
(All Assignments)



REGION ONE SMOKEJUMPER FIRE JUMPS
(All Assignments)




REGION ONE SMOKEJUMPER
MAN HOURS FIRES SUPPRESSION
(All Assignments)
MAN-HOURS
YEAR
1971-1975 BASE 51,522
90,089
51,365
67,716
62,053
62,072
45,145
71,635
53,228
25,530
61,343
100,000
95,000
90,000
85,000
80,000
75,000
70,000
65,000
60,000
55,000
50,000
45,000
40,000
35,000
30,000
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
1967
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

UNIT: Region 1

CALENDAR YEAR: 1976

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED ON FIRE CONTROL ACTIVITIES

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Data for Items 1a, 1b, and 2a should be taken from work planning and budget records in the Supervisor's office.
2. Items 1c, 1d, 2b and 2c may be obtained from actual records in the S.O. or from the Ranger District. If obtained from the Ranger having intimate knowledge on use of his men, these items may be estimated. Complete accuracy is not required.
3. Item 3 may be estimated where large numbers of casuals are employed. Since each reemployment counts as a new employment sufficient accuracy can be obtained by sample counts and measurement of time slips.

ITEM NO.	ITEM	NUMBER	
		SUB-TOTAL	TOTAL
1.	Regular appointed personnel		
	a. Full-time fire control *(20 pay periods or more)*	65	
	b. Part-time fire control	107	
	c. Others used on presuppression sometime during year	137	
	d. Others used on suppression *(exclude those reported under a, b, or c)*	276	
	e. Total (a + b + c + d)		585
2.	Seasonal or short-term personnel		
	a. Regular fire control *(crews, firemen, patrol, lookouts, etc.)*	1,189	
	b. Others *(BD, KV, BR, R&T, etc.)* who spent some time on fire control work	602	
	c. Emergency firemen *(exclude those reported under a or b)*	24	
	d. Total (a + b + c)		1,815
3.	Total number of casuals employed on fire suppression *(Each reemployment counts as an employment)*		679
4.	Number of casuals *(included in Item 3)* employed for first time *(Ranger's estimate is adequate)*	217	
5.	GRAND TOTAL (1e · 2d + 3)		3,079

REMARKS *(if necessary)*

SUBMITTED BY *(Signature)*

TITLE

5100-8 (12/63)

GPO 869-068

USDA-FOREST SERVICE

SMOKEJUMPER AND HELITACK REPORT

CALENDAR YEAR: 1976

REGION: One

INSTRUCTIONS:

Item 1 - Permanent bases only. Exclude temporary satellite bases.
Item 2 - Planned strength of unit. Do not include non-fire goers.
Item 3b - Exclude fires where initial attack is by jumpers or crewmen.
Item 5 - For smokejumpers report on fires jumped only. For helitack report only on fires where travel is by helicopter. Include travel time to and from fires.

ITEM	SMOKEJUMPERS		HELITACK
	Home Region	From Other Regions	Crewmen
1. Number of bases	3		11
2. Number of jumpers or crewmen	166		144
3. Number of fires attacked or jumped			
a. Initial attack	31 1/	1	112 (24) 2/
b. Follow-up	5 1/	0	15 (3) 2/
c. Total	36 1/	1	127 (27) 2/
4. Number of man-jumps to fires	98 1/	6	343 (61) 2/
5. Man-days on fires	264 1/	6	514 (87) 2/

Remarks *(Use for explanatory notes, if necessary)*

1/ Jump action to R-1 Forests only. Other R-1 Jumper action:

IAFCC-based jumpers to: Other FS Regions: 116 jumps to 21 fires for 481 man-days.

NPS : 8 jumps to 1 fire for 34 man-days.

Missoula-based jumpers to other FS Regions and agencies: 394 jumps to 105 fires for 1,000 man-days.

R-1 Smokejumpers also took ground action to 108 fires with 751 men for 3,471 man-days.

2/ Action in parentheses by temporary helitack crews and bases.

USDA-FOREST SERVICE

AIRCRAFT USE REPORT

(Exclude scheduled air line flights)

Ref: FSM 5716.4

CALENDAR YEAR: 1976

REGION: One

INSTRUCTIONS: Report all Fire Control use in Block A, and all other use in Block B. Item entries will be determined by primary purpose of flight. Item A2 - Include smokejumper and helijumper flight hours in 2c, and flights such as dropping cargo and heli-hose laying in 2b. Items C-1 and C-2 - Enter total for all Fire Control activities only. Item C-3 - Include water dropped as a retardant.

TYPE OF USE	HOURS FLOWN				
	FIXED WING				HELICOPTER
	FOREST SERVICE OWNED	OTHER PUBLICLY OWNED	COMMERCIAL	TOTAL	
A. FIRE CONTROL ACTIVITIES 1. Reconnaissance					
a. Detection	3		3,111	3,114	7
b. Other *(going fires, etc.)*			866	866	187
2. Transport					
a. Personnel	28		648	676	565
b. Equipment and supplies	2		168	170	121
3. Fire retardants			96	96	
4. Research, equip. devel. & tests					10
5. Other *(fire control)*	164		136	300	274
6. Total	197		5,025	5,222	1,164
B. OTHER ACTIVITIES					
1. Timber Management	13		216	229	358
2. Engineer	18		189	207	216
3. Lands	6		84	90	70
4. Recreation – Wildlife	14		196	210	184
5. Job Corps					
6. Operation	6		62	68	
7. I. & E.			28	28	
8. Fiscal Control			2	2	
9. S. & P.F.	28		320	348	86
10. Stations	12		25	37	90
11. Administrative	121		1,081	1,202	468

C. CARGO AND RETARDANTS

1. CARGO DROPPED	2. AIR FREIGHT	3. FIRE RETARDANTS DROPPED	
38,000 lbs.	371,400 lbs.	163,700 gals.	33 No. of fires

D. PASSENGERS CARRIED *(number)*	FIXED WING	HELICOPTER
1. Fire control →	4,025	3,783
2. All other →	4,327	3,771

GPO 904.474

5700-10 (1/71)

SUPPLEMENT TO AIRCRAFT USE REPORT (5700-10)

Use of Region 1 aircraft reported on 5700-10 includes other Forest Service Regions and Agency use. This use is itemized as follows:

Contract fixed-wing aircraft to: (Fire)

Region	Hours flown	Passengers	Cargo (lbs.)
2	90	389	20,000
3	40	82	9,800
4	82	459	10,000
5	25	125	
6	12	36	6,400
8	2	12	1,500
9	46	59	14,000
Colorado BLM	57	75	
Montana BLM	4	6	
Yellowstone NP	4	16	
BIA	75	298	16,500
Seney WLR	64	30	10,300
State of Montana	13	43	5,000
State of Minnesota	23	26	10,000
TOTALS	537	1,656	103,500

Contract helicopters to: (Fire)

R-2	95
Colorado BLM	10
Seney WLR	95
BIA	19

Lead Plane and Transportation for Barons

Region	Dry Lease (hours)	Passengers
2	1	4
3	325	90
4	58	20
8	97	10
9	152	11
BLM	21	
BIFC	4	
BIA	20	
Totals	678	135

Contract Helicopter To:	Hours	(For Other Activities) Passengers
Yellowstone NP	88	119
BLM	3	3
Private rescue	4	6
Totals	95	128

The flight totals for the two national contract Convairs based in Missoula were not included on the 5700-10. The Convairs flew a combined total of 521 hours, transporting 402 passengers. In addition, 223 flight hours were paid in availability.

Forest or Agency	Hours of Use
Region 1	15
Region 2	19
Region 3	43
Region 4	14
Region 5	29
Region 6	34
Region 9	73
BIA	38
Dinosaur Nat. Mon.	2
Seney WLR	123
State of Minneosta	102
State of Montana	6
State of North Dakota	7
Yellowstone NF (OAS) (non-fire use)	16

USDA-FOREST SERVICE

Calendar Year: 1976

Region: One

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT

(Summary of acres by states)

STATE	INSIDE FOREST SERVICE PROTECTION BOUNDARIES								NATIONAL FOREST LAND PROTECTED BY OTHERS
	PROTECTED BY THE FOREST SERVICE							S&P LAND PROTECTED BY STATE AND FS *(Under mutual assistance agreements)*	
	State and Private Land *(Include county and municipal land)*				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
	Fee Basis	Offset Basis	Reimbursement Suppression Costs Only	Without Reimbursement					
Montana	2,121,369	None	9,779	185,024	3,203	16,498,076	18,817,451	None	255,557
Idaho	912,539	None	678	4,313	81,054	6,670,828	7,669,412	None	207,016
Washington	6,278	None				118,486	124,764	None	
South Dakota		None				73,489	73,489	None	155,426*
North Dakota		None						None	1,105,126*
Total	3,040,186		10,457	189,337	84m257	23,360,879	26,685,116		1,723,125

5100-9 (Rev. 12/60)

GPO 903499

*Grassland protected by permittees.

USDA-FOREST SERVICE

Calendar Year: 1976

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT

(Summary of acres by states)

Region: One

STATE	INSIDE FOREST SERVICE PROTECTION BOUNDARIES								NATIONAL FOREST LAND PROTECTED BY OTHERS
	PROTECTED BY THE FOREST SERVICE							S&P LAND PROTECTED BY STATE AND FS *(Under mutual assistance agreements)*	
	State and Private Land *(Include county and municipal land)*				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
MONTANA	Fee Basis	Offset Basis	Reimbursement Suppression Costs Only	Without Reimbursement					
Beaverhead	53,265			29,440		2,110,312	2,193,017		4,265
Bitterroot	132,823					1,115,147	1,247,970		
I. Panhandle						34,371	34,371		
Custer	39,787			23,701		1,115,349	1,178,837		
Deerlodge	72,446		375	14,811		1,159,609	1,247,241		46,130
Flathead	179,148		1,100			2,281,108	2,461,356		81,184
Kootenai	573,448		3,584		242	2,131,501	2,708,775		28,482
Gallatin	384,253		242	39,457	82	1,726,666	2,150,700		
Helena	139,565			39,821	1,400	972,408	1,153,194		
Lewis & Clark	69,073			32,592	1,173	1,835,264	1,938,102		
Lolo	477,561		4,478	5,202	306	2,016,341	2,503,888		95,496
Total	2,121,369		9,779	185,024	3,203	16,498,076	18,817,451		255,557

5100-9 (Rev. 12/60)

GPO 903499

USDA-FOREST SERVICE

Calendar Year: 1976

Region: One

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT

(Summary of acres by states)

STATE	INSIDE FOREST SERVICE PROTECTION BOUNDARIES								NATIONAL FOREST LAND PROTECTED BY OTHERS
	PROTECTED BY THE FOREST SERVICE							S&P LAND PROTECTED BY STATE AND FS *(Under mutual assistance agreements)*	
	State and Private Land *(Include county and municipal land)*				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
IDAHO	Fee Basis	Offset Basis	Reimbursement Suppression Costs Only	Without Reimbursement					
Bitterroot	52					460,982	461,034		
Clearwater	138,619					1,703,636	1,842,255		120,270
I. Panhandle	660,221		678		56,683	2,240,650	2,958,232		86,746
Kootenai						55,873	55,873		
Nezperce	113,647			4,313	24,371	2,209,687	2,352,018		
Total	912,539		678	4,313	81,054	6,670,828	7,669,412		207,016

5100-9 (Rev. 12/60)

GPO 903499

USDA-FOREST SERVICE

Calendar Year: 1976

Region: One

LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT

(Summary of acres by states)

STATE	INSIDE FOREST SERVICE PROTECTION BOUNDARIES								NATIONAL FOREST LAND PROTECTED BY OTHERS
	PROTECTED BY THE FOREST SERVICE							S&P LAND PROTECTED BY STATE AND FS *(Under mutual assistance agreements)*	
	State and Private Land *(Include county and municipal land)*				Other Federal Land	National Forest Land	Total		
	Fee Basis	Offset Basis	Reimbursement Suppression Costs Only	Without Reimbursement					
WASHINGTON (I. Panhandle)	6,278					118,486	124,764		
SOUTH DAKOTA (Custer)						73,489	73,489		155,426*
NORTH DAKOTA (Custer)									1,105,126*
Total	6,278					191,975	198,253		1,260,552

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*Grassland protected by permittees.